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SCIENTIST SAYS:

The Carefree Live Longer

BY GEORGE GETZE
Science Editor

People who live longest may be people who "just don't care."

Unlike most of us, they may be relatively indifferent to things average people worry about—their incomes, their sex lives, even their families.

At the other extreme are people marked by exaggerated responses. They are "hyper-reactive." Their blood pressures jump when the phone rings, their pulses race when they see a pretty girl. They worry about their jobs, their families and anything else they can think of to worry about.

MOST OF US are somewhere in between.

The hyper-reactive person is the kind most likely to get peptic ulcers, heart disease and perhaps even cancer, according to one school of theoretical medicine that says stress is the most important cause of disease.

Hyper-reactive people also may be the ones who become alcoholics and compulsive smokers, according to Dr. Robert C. Hockett, associate scientific director of the Tobacco Industry Research Committee.

DR. HOCKETT'S immediate problem, of course, is people who are hyper-reactive or allergic to cigarette smoke.

He said only a small percentage of people may be responsible for a large proportion of conditions attributed by many doctors and health organizations to the smoking of cigarettes.

Tests made at New York University, he said, showed that less than 15% of people tested were allergic to tobacco skin tests.

When these same allergic people were tested by other doctors, they were found to be more likely to have high blood pressure, poor circulation and irregular or fast heart beat than the majority who were not allergic to skin tobacco tests, Dr. Hockett said.

"SOME DAY it may be possible to test people for hyper-reaction to cigarette smoke," Dr. Hockett said.

"If the tests show they're allergic, they can quit smoking, or not begin."

THE NEWS AND OBSERVER
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Tobacco Men Get Report On Lung Cancer Research

More research is needed before definite claims can be made about the cause of lung cancer, Dr. Robert C. Hockett declared here Thursday night.

"It is improper, if not unscientific, to conclude that tobacco use is proved to be a major cause of lung cancer," he told the annual meeting of the board of directors of the Tobacco Growers' Information Committee.

Dr. Hockett, associate scientific director of the Tobacco Industry Research Committee, said recent scientific studies show that multiple factors may be involved in the causation of lung cancer. He mentioned viruses, previous lung damage, air pollution, and constitutional differences between smokers and non-smokers.

He reported that the tobacco industry has appropriated some $4 million for a research program, with grants-in-aid to more than 100 scientists throughout the United States.

Following the Hockett address, a business session of the Tobacco Growers' Information Committee was held, with Carl T. Hicks, of Walstonburg, being renamed president. Albert G. Clay, of Mount Sterling, Ky., was re-elected vice president. W. Alger Cooksey, of LaPlatta, Md., was elected vice president, succeeding Ray Jones, of Blackstone, Va., who has resigned.

The board, in addition to approving its budget and projects for the coming year, also rehired William T. Joyner, of Raleigh, as counsel, and William H. W. Anderson, of Winston-Salem, as secretary-treasurer.

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